

681 enough of a threat to deter potential criminals from trespassing the law. There is no capital punishment for any kind of crime, and prisoners are treated humanely and generously. A recent Gallup poll among the people indicated that about 68 per cent of the population would be in favor of capital punishment in cases of premeditated murder.

692 The judicial system is inherited from the early Middle Ages and was developed further during the Swedish-Finnish period. Its reliability and impartiality are almost proverbial; no cases of bribery or other illegal action are known to have occurred and it is trusted and esteemed by all the people. The Public Courts of Justice handle both civil and criminal cases. The lowest courts are the Circuit Courts in the rural areas and Municipal Courts in the cities.

692 Assizes are held at set intervals, led by a legally trained judge and a jury composed of from five to twelve law members. Besides judging guilt the jury participates in deciding the case as a whole, and it can even outvote the judge. The courts of second instance are the Courts of Appeal, four in number, composed of a President, a Vice-President, senior members or Counselors, and junior members or Assessors. The highest legal authority is entrusted to the Supreme Court to which, in certain cases, complaints against the decisions of the Courts of Appeal may be submitted. It has as its members a President and a number of Counselors of Justice.

674 The following table shows the numbers and the types of criminal actions in 1945:

1. Criminal actions against the	
Criminal Law	-350- 265, 527